MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) An apparatus for processing biological materials, the apparatus comprising a plurality of stacked, rotatable platforms, each platform having a plurality of sample receiving areas located thereon, the apparatus having a first dispensing member mounted for dispensing reagent and/or a sample to a sample receiving area on a first stacked platform and a second dispensing member mounted for dispensing reagent and/or a sample to a sample receiving area on a second stacked platform, each platform being rotatable to move sequential sample receiving areas thereon into orientation with the mounted reagent dispensing member to receive reagent therefrom.

2. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises a third dispensing member mounted for dispensing reagent and/or a sample to a sample receiving area on a third stacked platform.

3. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~either~~ claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein each stacked platform has an associated dispensing member mounted for dispensing reagent and/or a sample to a sample receiving area on each stacked platform.

4. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 3]], wherein the apparatus further comprises a removing member for removing process waste from the sample receiving area.

5. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the apparatus is substantially contained within a releasably sealed housing.

6. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 5, wherein [[the]] said housing is connected to an air extraction means.

7. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein [[the]] said platforms are rotatable about a common central axis.

8. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein [[the]] said platforms rotate in unison.

9. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim1 [[to 7]], wherein [[the]] said platforms rotate independently.

10. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said platforms are substantially horizontal and are stacked above one another vertically.

11. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed ~~in any of claims 7 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein [[the]] each platform has one or more slots disposed from the edge of the platform to the ~~centre~~ center of the platform to facilitate the removal of the platform from the axis.

12. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein [[the]] each platform is substantially circular or octagonal in shape.

13. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed ~~in any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein [[the]] at least one sample receiving area is angled relative to said platform in the range of 2° to 25° to allow liquid to collect at one part of sample.

14. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the apparatus contains from 4 to 10 platforms.

15. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in any of ~~claims~~ claim 4 [[to 14]], wherein ~~the~~ ~~dispensing or~~ said removing member ~~comprise~~ comprises one or more tubes

16. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein [[the or]] each tube is ~~manufactured from~~ aluminium, ~~optionally having~~ with a PTFE coated interior.

17. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [[15]] 16, wherein [the or]] each tube comprises a PTFE tube disposed within an aluminium tube.

18. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 4 to 17~~ claim 4, wherein ~~the dispensing and~~ said removing member can move vertically relative to the sample receiving area.

19. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim15 [[to 18]], wherein [[separate]] said tubes ~~are provided to~~ are separate and dispense different reagents.

20. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims~~ claim 4 [[to 19]], wherein the reagents are dispensed and/or the waste material removed by means of peristaltic pumps.

21. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 5, wherein [[the]] said apparatus housing has adjustable feet ~~in order to allow the~~ allowing said apparatus to be placed on surfaces that [[in]] have an incline.

22. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein [[the]] said samples are held in [[or on]] one or more ~~of the following~~ holding means taken from a group consisting of ~~apparatus~~: a Petri dish, a slide ,a slide cover slip or a culture chamber.

23. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein [[the]] said samples have an identification means disposed thereon.

24. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein [[the]] said identification means ~~comprises~~ is taken from a group consisting of a bar code, a dot code or a radio frequency.

25. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the apparatus ~~further comprises~~ includes a sensor for detecting the presence of a sample and/or identifying the sample.

26. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [[22]] 25, wherein the sensor [[is]] is taken from a group consisting of an optical sensor, a magnetic sensor, a laser scanner or a radio transmitter receiver.

27. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises a sensor for detecting characteristics of the processed biological material.

28. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises a UV light source.

29. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises an air conditioning means.

30. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein [[the]] said air conditioning means is used for drying samples.

31. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises a turbidity monitor for assessing the turbidity of a sample.

32. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims~~ claim 4 [[to 30]], wherein said removing member is connected to a waste tank or waste disposal device.

33. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein an electronic control unit/central processing unit controls ~~the components of the~~ said apparatus.

34. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein [[the]] said electronic control unit/central processing unit is programmable.

35. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [[33 or 34]] 25, wherein ~~the sensors~~ said sensor is adapted to relay information to the unit.

36. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims~~ claim 33 [[to 35]], wherein [[the]] said control unit can interface with a printer and/or a computer.

37. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the apparatus can process approximately 65 samples.

38. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the apparatus is used for processing biological material for cytogenetic analysis.

39. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the apparatus is used for processing surface culture cells in order to ~~analyse~~ analyze the ~~associated~~ chromosomes associated with said cells.

40. (Canceled)